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Forum Trust Fund

United Nations trust funds to support the United Nations Forum on Forests

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note covers the programmatic activities, as at 22 October 2010, of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests funded from the Trust Fund in support of the Forum and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund administered by the Capacity Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The generous contributions of donor countries to both trust funds are gratefully acknowledged. Without them, many implementing activities would not have been possible.

* E/CN.18/2011/1.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 25 of United Nations Forum on Forests resolution 7/1 on the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations were called upon to make voluntary financial contributions to the Forum Trust Fund. Other countries in a position to do so and other interested parties were also urged to contribute to the Fund. In order to ensure transparency, the Forum secretariat, as stated in paragraph 27, would report to the Forum at each session on the operation of the Forum Trust Fund, including on the amount and source of contributions and a description of how funds had been spent.

2. In 2010, the Forum secretariat carried out a series of activities financed by the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests as well as the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund administered by the Capacity Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The activities were related to the Forum resolution on forests in a changing environment, adopted at the eighth session; the Forum resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management, adopted at the special session of the ninth session; and other aspects of the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015. The Trust Fund in support of the Forum was also used to supplement funds from the regular budget (programme 7: Economic and social affairs, subprogramme 9: Sustainable forest management) in implementing the programme of work for the first year of the current biennium.

3. The generous contributions of donor countries to the Trust Fund, which greatly enhanced the work of the Forum secretariat, are gratefully acknowledged. Indeed, given the current level of activity; that work would not have been possible without them. More specifically, the support provided by the Trust Fund for secretariat activities in 2010 covered costs related to, inter alia: (a) conference services for the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September 2010 and two smaller expert group meetings held in New York, on "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication" (23 April 2010) and "Regional processes and forest financing" (8 June 2010); (b) travel by representatives of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to expert group meetings as well as to the ninth session of the Forum; (c) travel by staff to participate in various forest-related meetings and events; (d) preparations by the Bureau for future sessions of the Forum, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2007/278; and (e) salaries of temporary staff members of the Secretariat. The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund was used mainly for the launching of a facilitative process in accordance with the Forum resolution on means of implementation.

4. The 2010 allotment from the Trust Fund in support of the Forum is $1,725,736, inclusive of programme support costs. Contributions to the Trust Fund in 2010 to date amount to $670,208, or approximately only one third of the funds needed for the implementation of the programme of work for 2010.

5. In 2010, funding has been received by the Capacity Development Office for capacity-building projects. One of the projects funded is component 1 of the facilitative process, with $624,750 contributed by the Government of the United

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In addition, $20,000 was contributed in 2009 by the Government of Switzerland to cover the costs of travel and services provided by the secretariat for the "Workshop on forest governance, decentralization and REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean: a country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests", held in Oaxaca, Mexico, from 31 August to 3 September 2010.

II. Conference services for meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing

6. According to United Nations rules, ad hoc expert group meetings do not have an entitlement to interpretation services, which are provided for such meetings only on an "as available basis". As no interpretation services were available for the planned meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing, the Forum secretariat was obliged to cover the related expenses through the Trust Fund.

Description	*Relationship to programme element of programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011*
Costs of conference services provided at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (13-17 September 2010), including conference rooms, technical support and interpretation in all United Nations languages	Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, output 9.79 (a) (i) a.

III. Travel by experts and representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition

7. Travel assistance was provided to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group held in Nairobi. At the time of writing, only $50,000 was available to support travel by representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in the ninth session of the Forum. Approximately $400,000 is required to cover such travel.

IV. Travel by staff members of the Forum secretariat

8. Staff members of the Forum secretariat participated in many key forest-related events, related to, inter alia, the Governing Council of the African Forest Forum, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration; the steering committee for the country-led initiative on forest governance, decentralization and REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean; the fourth Policy Board meeting of the

United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD); the Central African Forests and Institutions project; a Collaborative Programme session on "Enhancing cooperation and seeking coherence between REDD+ institutions to support countries' REDD+ efforts"; a meeting on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and fragile economies; the Major Group-Led Initiative in Support of the Forum; a scoping meeting to discuss supporting the total restoration of degraded forest ecosystems in Rwanda; participation in a panel at the Seventh Annual American Renewable Energy Day Summit; the World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations; a meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; a seminar on "Developing an effective international legal instrument: learning from the experience of the ECE Conventions and beyond"; the International Symposium on Forest Governance Indicators; the annual meeting of the European Tropical Forest Advisory Group; the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Advisory Group on forest financing; the twentieth session of the Committee on Forestry; a meeting with regional officers of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation; the annual conference of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative; a meeting of the Forest Dialogue steering committee; the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and the forty-sixth session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees.

V. Support for the Bureau in preparing for future sessions of the Forum

9. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2007/278, support can be provided to Bureau members by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to cover participation in at least one meeting a year of the Bureau held in or outside New York, through designated contributions to the Trust Fund. By the time of writing, the $41,000 contributed by Switzerland in 2009 had been exhausted.

VI. Temporary staff and general temporary assistance

10. Staff members at the Professional and other levels were engaged using the extrabudgetary resources of the Trust Fund. At the Professional level, temporary staff engaged included one each at the P-5, P-4 and P-3 levels; general temporary assistance staff included two at the P-4 level, two at the P-3 level and one at the P-2 level. Staff at other levels included three General Service support staff.

VII. Contributions to the trust funds

11. The contributions made in 2010 to the Trust Fund in support of the Forum and to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund administered by the Capacity Development Office are reflected in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund administered by the Capacity Development Office, for the period from January to December 2010

(United States dollars)

Contributor	*2010-2011*	*Percentage*
Finland	150 208	11.6
Republic of Korea	20 000	1.5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (contribution managed by Capacity Development Office)	624 750	48.2
United States of America	500 000	38.6
Total	**1 294 958**	**100.0**

Notes:

1. In 2010, in addition to its contribution of $150,208, the Government of Finland has contributed to the cost of a Junior Programme Officer for a two-year period starting in October 2010, which amounts to approximately $320,000.
2. At the time of writing, the Government of Austria had pledged approximately $75,000 in support of the International Year of Forests, travel by representatives from developing countries to the ninth session of the Forum, and travel by Bureau members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
3. The Forum secretariat has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Global Environmental Facility for a contribution of $1 million for 2010-2012 in support of the facilitative process.
4. At the time of writing, the Forum secretariat expected to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Germany for a contribution of $500,000 for 2010/11 in support of the facilitative process and the International Year of Forests, and a pending contribution of approximately $400,000 for 2011/12.
5. As at the time of writing, the Government of Norway had indicated that it would contribute approximately $400,000 to support the International Year of Forests and facilitative process activities.
6. The contribution from the Republic of Korea was received at the end of 2009.